



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Jescelle Major, Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips, S. Surface, Sarah Wilke (by phone), Sharon Nyree Williams

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Amanda Standley

Guests: David Bestock, Executive Director of Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association

Excused Absences: Terri Hiroshima (Chair), Ayako Shapiro and Tracy Rector

Call to Order

Priya Frank called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people.

Presentation – Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, David Bestock

Randy Engstrom introduced David Bestock, Executive Director of Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA). David presented on the programmatic impacts of his association, whose mission is integrating art, nature, and neighborhood to build and sustain a dynamic Delridge. DNDA partner closely with the Creative Advantage, with teaching artists onsite 4 days a week.

Jonathan Cunningham asked if SPS rents space for a discounted rate. David stated that Delridge does have an office space agreement with SPS at a greatly reduced rate.

Steve Galatro asked what the main challenge was, or greatest need for the organization to thrive. David stated that core support, support to provide competitive salaries and benefits to his employees, as well as building support is needed (building foundation is settling, and water is leaking in, placing 36 units of affordable housing plus subsidized office space at risk). David raised concerns about the Civic Partners grant, offered by ARTS, since awards are allotted based on organizational operating budget and not allocated based on greatest organizational impact or need; he feels the amounts awarded tend to favor larger organizations.

Approval of the February Minutes

Steve Galatro motioned to approve the February Seattle Arts Commission meeting minutes. S. Surface seconded the motion. All others approved.

Facilities and Economic Development (FED) retreat update



Cassie Chin provided an update from the FED retreat, which centered around the goal “to advocate within the city for resources, changes, and to advise on policies and programs, with a focus on equity.” Applying this frame, committee members condensed an initial list of 27 topics into 6 areas of focus:

1. Work with ARTS on RSJI Toolkit recommendations for the Cultural Facilities Fund
2. Base Certification (certify people not buildings)
3. PDA Study
4. KSS (accountability on the community request to have a strong programming plan)
5. Cultural Districts
6. Tiny spaces for community (how to secure alternative cultural spaces)

These areas of focus will inform future FED agendas, with areas being led by FED committee members for maximum engagement. Priya asked how they condensed from 27 to six in such a short time, and Surface responded that the facilitator, Claudia Bach, was able to help visualize the topics and guide the priority refinement process.

Community Development & Outreach (CDO) Subcommittee update

Sharon Williams provided an update from the CDO subcommittee. She shared concerns that community participation is dwindling, with the loss of two community members and limited engagement from the remaining two. CDO is looking to ARTS for guidance on what to focus on next. The CDO is looking to make their work plan more project based, with a focus on equity, events, and outreach. Sharon also spoke to the tension in the time commitment required for SAC members that are also serving on the board of Langston. Sharon highlighted the SAC commitment to having a SAC member on the Langston Board and requested that we formalize this as a requirement, with clear term limits. Randy reaffirmed that with ARTS financial investment in Langston, SAC representation is very important to ensure the investment is working for all.

Dawn commented that development and outreach are very different animals. She asked if there was a priority, if one outweighed the other. She said that outreach can be an outdated concept and can center the self instead of the needs of the community.

Priya asked if this was the right framing or workload for the CDO, agreeing with Dawn that outreach can be an outdated model. What does it look like in the CDO? As far as development goes, she'd like to see how SAC can provide opportunities for emerging leaders, how can they cultivate and develop the next generation of leaders? In speaking with Amber Rose, Priya wants SAC to play a role in community engagement in ARTS, highlighting that there is no one who oversees community engagement.

Open SAC positions

The three areas of focus for the commission are equity, grantmaking, and youth and career-connected learning. Priya presented on the short-term strategy and long-term strategy to cultivate new commissioners. Dawn asked if any of the current commissioners were experts or impacted by the current three areas of focus and inquired how they can assess what they currently have and then refine what the needs are. With all the focus on cultural space, she would like to see someone with real estate experience to shepherd the CAP report, PDA, and new Cultural Facilities Grant. Vivian Phillips and Steve Galatro



requested a matrix to assess the impact of SAC and the missing areas of expertise. SAC spoke to the strengths of each candidate up for nomination. Emphasis was placed on what could be lost without Tracy's connection to the Native population in the time during her Commission-approved leave of absence over the next year.

Priya motioned to approve Ashraf Hasham, Executive Director of the Vera Project, as a temporary Arts Commissioner to serve during Tracy Rector's leave of absence. Cassie Chinn seconded the motion. All approved.

Director's Report

Randy Engstrom shared his workplan for ARTS he created with the Mayor's Office. The workplan contains the following items:

- Langston: oversee the successful transition to nonprofit
- Creative Advantage: expand into new pathways
- Cultural Districts: designation and future strategy
- PDA Study: information gathering and completion of a racial equity tool kit
- ARTS Organization Structure

Vivian asked if we were working with outside consultants on the PDA study, and Randy shared ARTS is working with Leslie Bain of Framework Consulting. Vivian expressed her desire for ARTS to seek out a POC-led organization to help lead this work.

Closing

Randy announced that the shared ARTS/SDCI position is closed and interviews are being scheduled; the King Street Station construction project is out to bid; and ARTS is brainstorming ideas to participate in the Bloomberg Public Art Challenge.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.